THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Govt. of Kerala has, however, been asked to verify the factual position.

(b) The Supreme Court, in its judgement in L. K. Pandey vs. Union of India and others, has laid down an elaborate procedure for regulating and monitoring inter-country adoptions of children, in order to reduce, if not eliminate altogether the possibility of profiterring and trafficking in children. In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court, a Central Adoption Resources Agency (CARA) has been set up for safeguarding the interests of children given in adoption including these sent abroad.

(c) There are no authentic reports in this regard.

Excess payment made by DMS

*358. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unauthorised and excess payments of over Rs. 1 crore were made in February, 1992 to Federation and Co-operative Societies by Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) whether such payments were made after removing Government's decision and communications from the records and whether it is also a fact that Premium payment were made during 1991-92 to Nanak Singh's Group by removing Government decision from records;

(c) whether it is also a fact that excess milk was purchased from Nanak Singh's Group by getting the milk converted from Federation at a fabulous price of Rs. 1.5 per kg. and the fat was also sold at a loss; and

(d) what steps have been taken to fix responsibility for all these lapses which resulted in a loss of over Rs. 10 crores to Delhi Milk Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Because of non-fulfilment of the commitment by one of the contractors, additional quantities of milk at a premuim were procured. The additional quantities were procured from all the contractors and not from a specific group/contractors, as per the contract. No Government decision prohibiting procurement of additional quantities has been removed from records.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (a), (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

Milk Production

359. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India now ranks second in the world in milk production;

(b) if so, what has been the total milk production of our country through our cattle durng the past three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large part of our liquid milk supply still depends on imported milk products donated by EC countries; and

(d) if so, what are the item-wise details thereof, i.e. how much milk is our own production and how much of it is made from imported commodities both in terms of quantity and value.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir. India ranks second in the world in milk production.

(b) Estimated milk production during the past three years is as under:

1990-91: 53.7 million tonnes

1991-92: 56.3 million tonnes

1992-93: 58.6 million tonnes (anticipted achievement)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Operation of Black Board

360. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand "Operation Black Board" scheme; and

(b3 if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have taken a decision to expand the scheme during the VIIIth Plan so as to provide 3 rooms and 3 teachers in about 30 per cent of the schools where the enrolment exceeds 100. It has also been decided to provide additional teacher and accommodation as well as teaching earning equipment for about 10 per cent of the upper primary schools.

Central assistance will consist of salary of additional teacher during the VIIIth Plan and for equipment for upper primary schools. Construction will be the State Government's responsibility.

Case against ICAR

3313. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has hired the services of M/s. Sikri and Company, a private firm for peading the case filed against the ICAR;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether ICAR is permitted to do so;

(c) if so, what are the Rules and conditions under which ICAR has hired the services of a private firm;

(d) whether the legal Advisors of ICAR and other Government Lawyers who are already pleading their are incompetent to handle their cases;

(e) whether ICAR is seeking a large number of adjournments in the current case of Scientists being heard in the Central Administrative Tribunal's principal bench, New Delhi only due to the illness of senior counsel of M/s. Sikri and Company;

(f) whether I.C.A.R. is spending a huge amount of money in legal cases due to the above reasons; and

(g) whether some standby arrangement can be made by I.C.A.R. so as to avoid the wasteful expenditure in the present case in the CAT; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY- SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The ICAR is a registered society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 which functions on the basis of grants-in-aid from the Govt. of India. The affairs of the Society are regulated by the Rules and Bye laws framed by the Governing Body of ICAR. Being a Society it is treated at par with Public Sector Undertakings for the purpose of Legal Advice and for conduct of litigation. The Ministry of Law has suggested that the Society may prepare a list of it's own Counsels/Advocates/Pleaders and frame its own rules or terms and conditions of appointment